BUSINESS

Medical research facility planned

A major Israeli hospital said it plans to open a high-tech facility at the former Michael Reese Hospital site.

A+E

A tale as told by the Crow

The Field Museum's exhibit, "Apsáalooke Women and Warriors," is the story of a Native American people.

AN OHMME MOMENT

The indie-rock duo have a much-awaited new album coming out.

ON THE TOWN

ALEXA VISCIUS/HANDOUT

Chicago Tribune

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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Big gatherings now banned

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A woman closes a curtain as Day 1 of the men's Big 10 basketball tournament ends Wednesday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Ind.

CURTAIN CLOSES ON MANY SEASONS

What usually is the busiest time of the year for sports fans suddenly went dark.

A day after the NBA announced it was suspending its season indefinitely after a player tested positive for the new coronavirus, the NCAA on Thursday canceled its men's and women's basketball tournaments and its other winter and spring sports championships, signaling the end of March Madness.

Hours earlier, the Big Ten called off its men's basketball tournament about 20 minutes before the first second-round game was set to tip off in Indianapolis.

"As I thought through it," Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren said, "I just felt in my spirit that this was the right thing to do. We want to create an environment where our student-athletes are healthy from a holistic standpoint."

All other Division I conferences later followed suit.

Also Thursday, the NHL and Major League Soccer put their seasons on hold amid the outbreak, and Major League Baseball canceled the rest of its spring training games and pushed back the start of the regular season for at least two weeks, meaning the Cubs and White Sox won't open until mid-April at the earliest. MLB has not had a mass postponement of openers since 1995, when the season was shortened from 162 games to 144 after a 7½-month players strike that also wiped out the 1994 World Series.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Thursday said he asked owners of Chicago's major sports teams to cancel games until May 1 or play without spectators.

Complete coverage in **Chicago Sports**

Most Ill. schools to stay open as virus toll at 32

BY DAN PETRELLA AND GREGORY PRATT

State and city officials on Thursday announced their most dramatic steps yet in the effort to contain the rapidly spreading coronavirus in Illinois, banning gatherings of more than 1,000 people for the next 30 days while assuring parents that most schools would remain open for the time being.

The new measures will drastically alter Chicagoans' social and cultural lives at the very moment they could most use some distractions. Most major sporting events, concerts and rallies shut down just as spring arrives. Gov. J.B. Pritzker said he has asked professional sports teams "to cancel all of their games or play without spectators until May 1," and they've agreed.

Chicago Public Schools will remain open. City and state officials are not recommending school be canceled, but said local districts should

*Turn to **Virus, Page 8***

Travel bans sweeping globe amid outbreak

BY LORI HINNANT AND NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME — Sweeping travel bans cascaded around the globe Thursday, walling off countries and even continents, keeping people inside their homes, and slowing the engines of commerce to stem the coronavirus pandemic. Markets collapsed with the growing realization that there would be no fast end to the uncertainty.

After weeks downplaying the virus, President Donald Trump's announcement of strict rules barring most Europeans from entry came as a shock across the Atlantic. But within hours, even the European Union's passport-free travel came into question, with guards in places that had been essentially without borders for

*Turn to **Travel, Page 11***

'These are not normal times:' Foxx in atypical reelection bid

BY LOLLY BOWEAN AND GREGORY PRATT

She has made the rounds at some of Chicago's historic churches, asking congregants for their votes. She's hosted nearly a dozen campaign rallies in Cook County, attended conversations with families directly affected by gun violence and tapped her allies to both endorse and publicly advocate for her — moves that would be considered typical for someone seeking reelection.

Nevertheless, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's bid for a second term as the county's top prosecutor has been atypical.

While officeholders seeking reelection usually enjoy the advantages of incumbency — name recognition, a generally easier time fundraising and an established work record — Foxx has faced an unusual uphill climb. Facing an opponent with far deeper pockets, Foxx often has found herself on defense ahead of the state's March 17 primary.

While she has tried to tout her efforts to reform the prosecutor's office by focusing mainly on violent offenders and by leaning on principles of restorative justice, her message frequently has been up against the louder beating drum of the ongoing Jussie Smollett case.

"It's hard to unseat incumbents in normal circumstances, but Mrs. Foxx doesn't have normal circumstances," said Alvin Tillery, a

*Turn to **Foxx , Page 6***

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Democratic candidates for Cook County state's attorney, from left, incumbent Kim Foxx, Bill Conway, Donna More and Bob Fioretti prepare for a debate at ABC 7 in downtown Chicago last month.

Tom Skilling's forecast High **46** Low **32**

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast on back page of A+E section

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